REMARKS

Claims 1-11, 15, and 17 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) over Japanese Laid-Open Patent Application Number 2000-128031 to Satoshi ("Satoshi") in view of Katta (US Pub. 2004/0085447) ("Katta") and U.S. Patent Number 6,704,048 to Malkin et al. ("Malkin"). Claims 12-14 and 19 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) over Satoshi, Katta, and Malkin, and further in view of U.S. Patent Number 4,772,942 to Tuck ("Tuck"). Claim 16 is rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) over Satoshi, Katta, and Malkin, and further in view of U.S. Patent Number 6,314,364 to Nakamura ("Nakamura"). Claim 18 is rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) over Satoshi, Katta, and Malkin, and further in view of U.S. Patent Number 6,891,563 to Schofield et al. ("Schofield") and U.S. Patent Number 6,422,062 to King et al. ("King"). Applicants traverse these rejections.

Independent claim 1 recites, in part, "wherein the at least one omniazimuth visual sensor is stationary with respect to the mobile body, such that the perspective image, which is panned or tilted corresponding to the perspective image data, is obtained by transforming the image data obtained from the optical image taken by the at least one omniazimuth visual sensor".

As the Examiner acknowledges on pages 4 and 5 of the Office Action, Satoshi does not disclose at lest this feature of Claim1. Katta at least fails to teach or suggest these same aspects of independent claim 1, and thus Katta adds nothing in this regard if combined with Satoshi.

In fact, in the present Office Action, the Examiner has merely replaced the Felix reference (US 4,420,238) ("Felix") with the newly cited Malkin reference to teach this feature (please see, e.g., the paragraph beginning with "Regarding (d) ..." on page 7 of the present Office Action). However, Applicants note that while Felix was at least related to the use of a camera in a vehicle (i.e., an apparatus for enabling concealing surveillance by use of a camera in a vehicle), Malkin is either: (i) unrelated to the use of cameras and surveillance equipment in or on a vehicle, such as in the present invention, Satoshl and

Katta, or (ii) unrelated to the use of an omniazimuth visual system, such as in the present invention and Satoshi. Malkin actually relates to set-top boxes for video conferencing applications. Therefore, Applicants submit that based at least on points (i) and (ii) above, the combination of Malkin with Satoshi and Katta is improper.

Furthermore, there is no suggestion or motivation in Satoshi or Katta to modify either of the inventions in Satoshi or Katta to incorporate the pan/tilt capability of the Malkin reference (especially since the Examiner admits that Satoshi does not disclose such features and simply does not show that Katta discloses such features). Likewise, there is no suggestion or motivation in Malkin to incorporate the pan/tilt capabilities thereof into a camera mounted in or on a vehicle, or into an omniazimuth visual system.

It is submitted that the Examiner is using improper hindsight, based upon disclosure in the present application. Since there is no suggestion or motivation to combine the inventions of Satoshi, Katta, and Malkin , it would not be possible for a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to arrive at the present invention as claimed, based solely on the disclosures, teachings, or suggestions of Satoshi, Katta, and Malkin.

Moreover, Applicants note that according to Section 2143.01(III) of the MPEP, "[t]he mere fact that references <u>can</u> be combined or modified does not render the resultant combination obvious unless the prior art also suggests the desirability of the combination". *In re Mills*, 916 F.2d 680, 16 USPQ2d 1430 (Fed. Cir. 1990). Furthermore, "[a] statement that modifications of the prior art to meet the claimed invention would have been '<u>well within the ordinary skill of the art</u> at the time the claimed invention was made' because the references relied upon teach that all aspects of the claimed invention were individually known in the art is not sufficient to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness without some objective reason to combine the teachings of the references. MPEP §2143.01 (IV).

Applicants thus submit that the combination of Satoshi, Malkin, and Katta would not have resulted in at least these aspects of independent claim 1. Consequently, claim 1 and all of the other claims which depend directly or indirectly from claim 1 are patentable over any combination of Satoshi, Katta, and Malkin.

As for the rejections of various dependent claims over the Satoshi/Katta/Malkin combination and one or more of Tuck, Nakamura, Schofield, and King, applicants traverse those dependent claim rejections as well. None of Tuck, Nakamura, Schofield, and King teaches or suggests panning or tilting of a perspective image where that perspective image is derived from an image with an omniazimuth view field area therearound. Given this, no combination of any of these seven references (i.e., Satoshi, Katta, Malkin, Tuck, Nakamura, Schofield, and King) would have resulted in at least this aspect of independent claim 1. Consequently, claim 1 and all of the other claims which depend directly or indirectly from claim 1 are patentable over any combination or sub-combination of Satoshi, Katta, Malkin, Tuck, Nakamura, Schofield, and King.
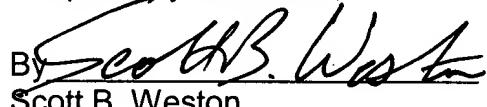
<u>CONCLUSION</u>

Applicants believe that no fees or extensions are required. However, if for any reason a fee is required, the Office is conditionally authorized to charge Deposit Account No. **04-1105** for the appropriate amount(s). Also, the Office should consider this a conditional petition for the proper extension period needed to have the response entered and considered.

In view of the foregoing, applicants believe all pending claims (i.e., claims 1-19) are in condition for allowance and request allowance.

Dated: May 7, 2007   Respectfully submitted,

Customer No.: 21874   By _____
                                            Scott B. Weston
                                               Registration No.: 55,854
                                            EDWARDS ANGELL PALMER & DODGE
                                               LLP
                                            P.O. Box 55874
                                            Boston, Massachusetts 02205
                                            (617) 439-4444
                                            Attorneys/Agents For Applicant